# Today's News - Friday, September 26, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Monday is next week's "floating" no-newsletter day. We hope to be back Tuesday, September 30, but our nosy news mouse is on call for jury duty, so if you don't see ANN in your inbox, it's because she's being a good citizen.

- ANN Feature: Azaroff reports on his recent visit to Japan to check out what recovery looks like three years after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami - he finds many parallels to the post-Sandy conditions in the Northeast U.S. Do they have the answers we seek?
- Chua dives deep into how Singapore's Marina Barrage "acts as an ocean flood barrier, retains fresh water and provides recreation space in a crowded city."
- Goodyear has a great Q&A with Berkowitz, president of 100 Resilient Cities re: "how cities get things done even when nations can't, how infrastructure isn't always the biggest challenge a city faces, and the limitations of philanthropy."
- Beatley's "Blue Urbanism" offers "a blueprint for how cities can help solve the problems of the oceans (first prize for bluest city: Wellington, New Zealand!).
- Lewis lays out why it takes more than handbooks, conventional standards, and traffic engineers to create "beautiful, durable and sustainable streetscapes": "the payoff of high-quality design can be big."
- Bloomberg Philanthropies names 5 cities as winners of the 2014 Mayors Challenge: Barcelona is the €5 million Grand Prize winner; others "win funds for innovative solutions to pressing urban challenges."
- McGuigan is quite taken with Gehry's Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris's Bois de Boulogne: it is "an astonishing work of architectural couture" that "may appear transparent, but it is a building that doesn't easily give up its secrets" (and "a garden folly made for giants").
- Q&A with L.A.'s Materials & Applications gallery founder Didier re: how the "exhibition space is redefining what an architecture gallery can be."
- Weekend diversions:
- Well, it doesn't launch online until Tuesday, so be sure to bookmark "Briefly," a new documentary "about the many-headed beast known as the brief. Clients, take note" (What makes a bad brief? Gehry, Rockwell, et al. tell all).
- Heathcote x 2 - both from the Barbican: cheers for "City Visions" film series: "The cities in our heads are from the movies. To see them on screen again is, ultimately, a kind of lucid dreaming."
- He also gives thumbs-up to "Constructing Worlds" that proves how "photographers use scale to provoke both angst and awe," and "makes clear that photography has at least as much influence on the way we perceive buildings and cities as the physical locations themselves."
- Wainwright x 2: he wonders what happened to Wenders and his "Cathedrals of Culture," a documentary in the Barbican series "that tries - and fails - to find the souls of buildings; the sickly-sweet results feel more like a series of vapid promo videos." Instead, catch "Living Architectures" - which provides "a fascinating window on to the real lives of buildings."
- He's fascinated by Hemingway's 'pop-up' restored flat in Goldfinger's Balfron Tower - and yet there's "something deeply uncomfortable about feeding off the lost ambition of what the building once was" now it's "being spruced up and sold off - eviscerated of its original social purpose."
- Bevan basks in the Barbican's "glorious" photo exhibition, "Constructing Worlds : Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age."
- Lamster lauds "Provocations: The Architecture and Design of Heatherwick Studio" at the Nasher Sculpture Center: his "humane modernism makes Heatherwick such an appealing figure, and gives joyful life" to the show that includes designs for "buttons, benches, boats, buses, buildings and bridges - and that's just the Bs."
- Robinson hails Heatherwick, "who shines a brilliant beacon of hope that things can be better - much, much better": while "Provocations" may "not offer an end to world hunger or bring about world peace, it does address the world's built environment with wonderfully ingenious solutions that seem inspirational."
- In St. Louis, "Drawing Ambience: Alvin Boyarksky and the Architectural Association" at the Kemper "reveals that some of the finest architectural minds of our time were indeed visionaries" ("They forecast the buildings to come").
- NYC's Center for Architecture kicks off Archtober with "New Practices New York," showcasing the innovative winners of the biennial competition (we'd like to know how some came up with some very strange firm names - and some fairly annoying websites).
- Parsons presents "How Things Don't Work: The Dreamspace of Victor Papanek," which features "previously unexplored materials in dialogue with the work of emerging designers from Vienna, London, and New York City."
- Grabar grapples with why Caro's "The Power Broker" remains the "bible of the modern American city" and "an essential primer on American power."

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ANN Feature: What Does Recovery Look Like? The current recovery efforts in Japan following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami draw many parallels to our post-Sandy conditions in the Northeast U.S., and should temper our expectations and help illuminate realities of our road ahead. Do they have the answers we seek? By Illya Azaroff, AIA- ArchNewsNow.com

How Singapore's Marina Barrage keeps fresh water in and the sea out: ...holds back ocean surges during storms, while creating a fresh water reservoir and a protected waterfront for a new botanical garden and a growing financial district. By Grace Chua [images]- Citiscope

How to Help the World's Cities Prepare for the Next Disaster: A conversation with 100 Resilient Cities president Michael Berkowitz...about how cities get things done even when nations can't, how infrastructure isn't always the biggest challenge a city faces, and the limitations of philanthropy..."the resilience dividend." By Sarah Goodyear- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

To make our cities green, we have to think blue: "Blue Urbanism: Exploring Connections Between Cities and Oceans" by Timothy Beatley examines the tight fit between cities and their nearby oceans...and lays out a blueprint for how cities can help solve the problems of the oceans...prize for bluest city may have to go to Wellington, New Zealand... -- Rebuild by Design; MIT CAU + ZUS + URBANISTEN; Deltares; 75B; Volker Infra Design [images]- Grist Magazine

Building a beautiful, durable and sustainable streetscape is a team effort: Too many streets are shaped by handbooks...Applying conventional standards may be necessary but is never sufficient...Talented urban designers, landscape architects and graphic designers, in addition to technically proficient civil and environmental engineers, must work collaboratively...the payoff of high-quality design can be big... By Roger K. Lewis- Washington Post

Five Cities Selected As Winners in Bloomberg Philanthropies 2014 Mayors Challenge: €5 million Grand Prize Winner Barcelona Aims to Create Digital and Community 'Trust Network' for Each of its At-Risk Elderly Residents: Athens, Greece; Kirklees in Yorkshire, UK; Stockholm, Sweden; and Warsaw, Poland also win funds for innovative solutions to pressing urban challenges.- Bloomberg Philanthropies

Sacré Bleu!: High over the treetops in the Bois de Boulogne, Frank Gehry's contemporary art museum...is an astonishing work of architectural couture: The Fondation Louis Vuitton may appear transparent, but it is a building that doesn't easily give up its secrets. Encountering it for the first time...is amazing and a little confounding...as if it were a garden folly made for giants. By Cathleen McGuigan [images]- Architectural Record

Pocket Park: Q&A with M&A gallery founder Jenna Didier: In the heart of Silver Lake, one of Los Angeles' most vibrant creative cultural centres, the Materials & Applications exhibition space is redefining what an architecture gallery can be. [slide show]- Uncube magazine (Germany)

Famous Creatives on How to Write the Perfect Brief in “Briefly”: What makes a bad brief? Oh, let us count the ways...new short doc (26 min) about the many-headed beast known as the brief. Clients, take note...premieres free online September 30. -- Frank Gehry; David Rockwell; Yves Béhar; Maira Kalman; John Boiler; John C. Jay; Tom Bassett/Bassett & Partners- American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA)

Movies’ love affair with the metropolis: A look at film makers’ enduring interest in city street life and skyscrapers: Our images of cities and of architecture are arguably more influenced by film than they are by reality...The cities in our heads are from the movies. To see them on screen again is, ultimately, a kind of lucid dreaming. ["City Visions" at the Barbican] By Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

Architecture in photography at the Barbican: From skyscrapers and LA sprawl to industrial decay and ‘martini-modernism’, photographers use scale to provoke both angst and awe..."Constructing Worlds: Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age"...makes clear that photography has at least as much influence on the way we perceive buildings and cities as the physical locations themselves. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

"Cathedrals of Culture": the documentary that tries - and fails - to find the souls of buildings: Wim Wenders and a team of directors attempt to show ‘the soul of buildings’, from the Pompidou Centre to the most humane prison in the world, in 3D. But their sickly-sweet results feel more like a series of vapid promo videos...an exceptional series of documentaries – "Living Architectures" – that provide a fascinating window on to the real lives of buildings... By Oliver Wainwright- Guardian (UK)

Wayne Hemingway's 'pop-up' plan sounds the death knell for the legendary Balfron Tower: Opening for just two weeks, he has restored a flat in Ernö Goldfinger’s east London social housing tower block, in the last hurrah before it is sold off..."Balfron Season"...there remains something deeply uncomfortable about feeding off the lost ambition of what the building once was..."the welfare state in concrete"...it is now the zombie corpse of the welfare state, being spruced up and sold off...eviscerated of its original social purpose. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

"Constructing Worlds: Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age," Barbican Gallery: This glorious new exhibition features images of buildings around the world by 18 photographers... By Robert Bevan -- Berenice Abbott; Walker Evans; Iwan Baan; Ed Ruscha; Stephen Shore; Julius Shulman; etc.- Evening Standard (UK)

"Provocations: The Architecture and Design of Heatherwick Studio" at the Nasher Sculpture Center celebrates Thomas Heatherwick’s humane modernism: Those who can break free of preconceived ideas are a precious commodity and inspiring...It is this special ability that makes [him] such an appealing figure, and gives joyful life to the new exhibition...you will find Heatherwick applying his method to the design of buttons, benches, boats, buses, buildings and bridges — and that’s just the Bs. By Mark Lamster [images]- Dallas Morning News

Dallas’ Nasher Sculpture Center makes way for Thomas Heatherwick: If you worry about the future...all is not hopeless...a British designer and architect who shines a brilliant beacon of hope that things can be better — much, much better...While “Provocations: The Architecture and Design of Heatherwick Studio” does not offer an end to world hunger or bring about world peace, it does address the world’s built environment with wonderfully ingenious solutions that seem inspirational. By Gaile Robinson [slide show]- Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Texas)

Kemper Art Museum exhibition celebrates architectural exploration: Architecture as a discipline serves an invaluable function in society...But [it] is an art. And like all of the arts, it has its stars...“Drawing Ambience: Alvin Boyarksky and the Architectural Association” reveals that some of the finest architectural minds of our time were indeed visionaries...“They forecast the buildings to come...” -- Alex Wall/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Bernard Tschumi; Lebbeus Woods; John Hejduk; Zaha Hadid; Peter Wilson; Coop Himmelb(l)au; Daniel Libeskind; Frank Gehry; Mary Miss [slide show]- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Center for Architecture to kick off Archtober with "New Practices New York": ...biennial New Practices competition was started in 2006 as a way to “recognize and promote new and innovative architecture and design firms.” -- The Bittertang Farm; dlandstudio architecture + landscape; Fake Industries Architectural Agonism; form-ula; NAMELESS Architecture; PARA-Project- The Architect's Newspaper

"How Things Don't Work: The Dreamspace of Victor Papanek": ...previously unexplored materials...in dialogue with the work of emerging designers from Vienna, London, and New York City...challenges Papanek’s legacy of socially committed design by bringing it into conversation with contemporary work by a new generation of speculative and critical designers; at the Sheila C. Johnson Design Center at Parsons The New School for Design- Parsons The New School for Design / University of Applied Arts Vienna

The bible of the modern American city: Why “The Power Broker” by Robert Caro is still one of our most important books: After 40 years, this magisterial biography of Robert Moses remains an essential primer on American power. By Henry Grabar- Salon

-- Travel guide: Tokyo: Like Kenzo Tange and his fellow Metabolists famously noted, Tokyo has the appearance of a sophisticated organism with a highly developed metabolism, constantly modifying its own urban fabric. By Ulf Meyer
-- Herzog & de Meuron: What truly distinguishes them is their commitment to challenging the Modernist ornament-aversion. By Jakob Harry Hybel
-- 7 Sharp-Eyed Architectural Photographers -- Åke E:son Lindman; Thomas Mayer; Michael Wolf; Ken Konchel; Andrew Prokos; CphCph; Pygmalion Karatzas
-- 7 Unmistakable Architect's Sketches: ...remarkable architects, who are using the freedom of the hand drawing to express their particular architectural vision. -- Dominique Perrault; Frank O. Gehry; Santiago Calatrava; SANAA; Jørn Utzon; Álvaro Siza; Steven Holl

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